

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 01506 161725Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00 /026 W
-----161741Z 066275 /41

O 161359Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9919

S E C R E T BOGOTA 01506

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 1 LINE 6)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, CASC, CO
SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER;

SITREP 4

1. FOLLOWING THE AMBASSADOR'S DEMARCHE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER YESTERDAY, THE LATTER NAMED A SENIOR MINISTRY OFFICIAL, AMBASSADOR JOSE MORALES, AS ACTION AND LIAISON OFFICER ON THE KIDNAPPING CASE. WE URGED AMBASSADOR MORALES TO FACILITATE THE NAMING OF A SIMILAR OFFICAL BY THE DEFENSE MINISTRY. HE LATER INFORMED AS THAT BRIGADIER GENERAL HUMBERTO MONTANEZ THE HEAD OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, HAD BEEN SO DESIGNATED. WE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH MORALES TODAY AND WILL PRESS HIM FOR AN OFFICIAL, DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE LA MACARENA ATTACK AND KIDNAPPING. WE BELIEVE THAT THE COLOMBIAN ARMED FORCES WILL BE THE ACTION AGENCY IN THIS CASE AND WE THINK WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE AND EVEN PRESS FOR THIS. WHILE WE DO NOT OVER-ESTIMATE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND CAPABILITIES THEY WOULD BE FAR BETTER THAN THE KIDNAPPING AND EXTORTION UNIT OF THE DAS, WITH WHOM WE HAVE HAD TO WORK IN OUR OTHER TWO KIDNAPPING CASES. THE DAS IS INEFFECTIVE AND ERRATIC AND IS HEADED BY A COMMUNIST.

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2. WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY COMMUNICATION FROM THE KIDNAPPERS AND WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY CONTACT BETWEEN THEM AND GOC AUTHORITIES.

3. THE LOCAL PRESS HAS CARRIED ADDITIONAL NEWS REPORTS FROM VILLAVICENCIO ON THE INCIDENT BUT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO A JUDGE WHO WITNESSED THE KIDNAPPING, THE REPORTS DO NOT ADD TO OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE AFFAIR. THE JUDGE STATED THAT

STARR WAS PERMITTED BY THE KIDNAPPERS TO TAKE AWAY WITH HIM A HAMMOCK, A KIND OF TARPAULIN OR MOSQUITO NET AND SOME CLOTHING. ACCORDING TO THE JUDGE, THE KIDNAPPERS QUESTIONED STARR BEFORE TAKING HIM AWAY, ASKING HIM WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIM. STARR REPORTEDLY REPLIED IT WAS THE EMBASSY AND HE WAS THEN LED AWAY. AS NOTED ABOVE, WE ARE PRESSING FOR CONFIRMATION OF THIS REPORT AND FOR FURTHER DETAILS.
SANCHEZ

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Litigation Codes:
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TAGS: ASEC, PINS, CASC, CO, PC, (STARR, RICHARD CHARLES)
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